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There exists an unpublished letter from the aforesaid Zachary to Dr. Kenneth Macaulay, dated 10th September, 1808 (now in possession of Miss Rose Adelaide Macaulay, of 6 Oakland's Grove, Shepherd's Bush, W., granddaughter of the said Dr. Kenneth Macaulay), wherein the father describes the various compositions of his "dear Tom," who was not yet eight years old! Toward the end of this letter we read: "He has composed I know not how many hymns. I send you one as a specimen in his own handwriting, which he wrote about six months ago [at the age of seven years and six months], on one Sunday morning while we were at breakfast."

The unpublished letter here mentioned is, curiously enough, in many places absolutely identical with the letter which, also dated September, 1808, is ascribed by Sir G. O. Trevelyan ("Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay," vol. i., ch. i., pp. 30*f.*) to Lord Macaulay's mother.

"Quite extraordinary for such a baby," is the judgment passed by Mrs. Hannah More on these early hymns of Lord Macaulay (see Trevelyan, *op. cit.*, vol. i., ch. i., p. 32.) Her judgment is enough for us. We have simply to endorse it.

A HYMN.

Almighty God of all below,
Thou canst protect from every foe.
The Heavens are made by thy great Hands,
One word of thee the Earth commands. [? thine.]

2

Some men make Gods of red and blue,
And rob their Sovereign of his due:
The good shall go to Heaven. The fell,
Hosts of thy wrath can bear to hell. [? blasts.]

3

Thy wrath is like a burning fire;
Thy Goodness all the good admire;
Thy Word restores the dawning day;
At Thy Command bright lightnings play.

4

The Birds that chirp their morning songs,
That Breath of Praise to thee belongs.
These, by thy mercy always fed
Teach us to beg our daily bread.

5

Ye Mortals loud resound your King;
And while that powerful God you sing,
Oh! be your Hearts and Tongues the Same
While singing the Almighty name!

A LITTLE BOOK ON PHILLIPS BROOKS.

PHILLIPS BROOKS. By M. A. De Wolfe Howe. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. [The Beacon Biographies.]

The latest thing in the way of a series of handy, neatly bound volumes, in a form convenient for reading, and by

writers of acknowledged ability and special competence to deal with the subjects assigned them, is the "Beacon Biographies," under the editorship of Mr. M. A. De Wolfe Howe. The aim of the series, in the words of the prospectus, is to furnish "brief readable and authentic accounts of the lives of those Americans whose personalities have impressed themselves most deeply on the character and history of their country." It is not so serious or so scholarly an undertaking as the series of "American Statesmen" and "American Men of Letters," but it is designedly more popular, and, without being exhaustive, is sufficiently thorough and comprehensive to give the reader a very vivid and correct impression of the life and labors of the man who forms the subject of each individual sketch. The only rule of selection which the editor has set himself in his choice of eminent Americans is one chiefly of influence and of personality. The series might therefore more correctly bear the title: "American Heroes."

A glance at the list of biographies already published will show that the persons chosen are those who have impressed themselves most deeply upon the national character and who appeal most powerfully to the imagination and heart of the people of every section. For this reason the series is likely to be read as a whole, and thus to escape the fate that overtakes many similar literary ventures, where one or two specially readable and brilliant books are made to advertise the series and to secure purchasers for a considerable number of books, which, but for the good company in which they found themselves, might never have found a reading public.

The volume we desire specially to notice is by the editor, Mr. Howe, and is an appreciative and extremely interesting and well-written sketch of Phillips Brooks. Very wisely, we think, the author has confined himself to such scenes and incidents in the life of Brooks as furnish a distinct contribution to the study of his character, and give one the most vivid and correct impression of his personality. And yet no portion of the life is passed over or slighted. The

effective influence of his boyhood days at the Boston Latin School, the personal influence of Dr. Vinton, to whose wise counsels Brooks owed so much in early life; his career at Harvard, and his unsuccessful attempt at school-teaching under Mr. Francis Gardner, the head-master of the Boston Latin School, are very briefly but admirably told, and furnish an excellent background from which to view his public life and ministry. In his treatment of this portion of the life, which is best known to the public, Mr. Howe makes large use of Brooks's "Lectures on Preaching," which he regards as being in effect an "Apologia pro Vita Sua." In this, we think, he is undoubtedly correct, for no one can form any true estimate of Brooks as a preacher who is unfamiliar with the book that more nearly reflects his inmost thought and life than anything else he ever wrote for the public.

Very little is said in these pages of Brooks's theology; indeed, this would be out of place in a volume of this kind. Mr. Howe has confined himself to giving us a sketch of the man and the preacher, and in this he has been very successful. If the remaining volumes of the series maintain the same high average of literary excellence and proportion, we predict for the "Beacon Biographies" a ready sale and a large and appreciative public.

W. A. G.

MR. MCCARTHY'S "REMINISCENCES."

REMINISCENCES. By Justin McCarthy. New York: Harpers. 1899.
2 vols.

We know of no better postprandial reading than is furnished by these "Reminiscences." The author has been in the world a number of years, and has been privileged to know more or less intimately a good many of the world's great men. His friendships cover the gamut of human occupation, and he has touched the many notes of the keyboard with a light but master hand.

The charm of the book is heightened by the peculiar arrangement, or rather lack of arrangement, by which it is intentionally characterized. We seem to have been taken